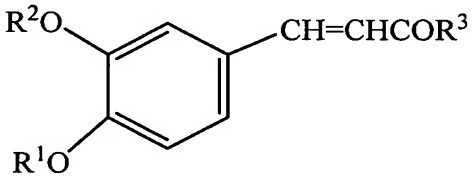
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 3. (Cancelled)

4. (New) A method for treating hypertension, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, R^3 represents a hydroxyl group, an ester bond residue, or an amide bond residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

wherein said compound of formula (1) is not ferulic acid.

5. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (1) is rosmarinic acid or phenethyl caffeate.

6. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (1) is 3-caffeoylquinic acid, 4-caffeoylquinic acid, or 5-caffeoylquinic acid.

7. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl and aralkyl groups of R^1 or R^2 are derived from C_{1-40} alcohols or aryl alcohols.

8. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein the acyl group of R^1 or R^2 is derived from C_{1-40} carboxylic acids.

9. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein R^3 is an ester bond residue.

10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the ester bond residue is selected from the group consisting of residues derived from linear C_{1-40} monohydric alcohols, residues derived from linear C_{1-40} polyhydric alcohols, residues derived from branched C_{1-40} monohydric alcohols, residues derived from branched C_{1-40} polyhydric alcohols, residues derived from hydroxyl-containing carboxylic acids, residues derived from sugar alcohols, and residues derived from sugars.

11. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein R^3 is an amide bond residue.

12. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the amide bond residue is derived from water soluble amino acids.

13. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.001 to 50 g.

14. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is orally.

16. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of tablets, granules, fine subtilaes, pills, powders, hard capsules, soft capsules, troches, chewables and liquids.

17. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a liquid form.

18. (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein said compound of formula (1) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 wt.%.

19. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is parenterally.